

GOVERNOR JANET NAPOLITANO
STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS
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[EXCERPT ON PUBLIC SAFETY]

Five years ago, our state lacked adequate counter-terrorism resources. Arizonans didn't have a central place to go for information if a disaster struck. And while border crime was escalating, local communities didn't have the tools or manpower they needed, and the issue was not even on the federal agenda.

Today, we have a 24-hour terrorism intelligence center and a statewide 2-1-1 system to disseminate public safety information. In five years, we've increased DPS funding by more than 60 percent. We are entering the third year of a four-year plan to ensure that every person who needs shelter from domestic violence can get it. We've deployed the National Guard at the border at federal expense, cracked down on border gangs, drug smugglers and human traffickers, and we've become the leading state in the nation in confronting America's broken borders head-on.

When it comes to regaining control of immigration, the federal government has been a miserable failure. Arizonans know – better than anybody – that immigration problems aren't going away. And until there is comprehensive immigration reform by the federal government, we will have to deal with those problems.

It has been against the law in the United States for business to hire illegal labor since 1986. Congress left to the states the option of imposing licensing sanctions. Now, we've taken them up on it. Arizona's employer sanctions law has taken effect, and we will continue to implement it. But on the day I signed it, I wrote to you and pointed out flaws that still need your attention. You can make these changes and yet keep the law's meaning, purpose, and strength.

You should add to the law a definition of what constitutes a "complaint," so that law enforcement does not have to waste resources chasing down anonymous calls from malicious competitors or disgruntled employees. You should clarify that a wrongful hiring decision at one location doesn't shut down an entire chain of stores and put legal Arizonans out of work. The law has to ensure that vital infrastructure, like nursing homes and hospitals, can continue to operate. And you should specify that the law cannot be used to discriminate.

As I pointed out to you when I signed the employer sanctions bill, this Legislature did not set aside enough funding to enforce it effectively.

I have a solution that you can act on quickly: redirect some of the money that the state recovers from successful prosecutions. Each year, Arizona prosecutors receive millions of dollars from penalties paid when a criminal racket is stopped.

It's a good concept; in fact, last year, some of that money funded an all-new, state-of-the-art crime lab for Southern Arizona.

But too often lately, we see this money go for TV commercials that amount to little more than publicity for an elected official. That's the wrong way to use it. Pass a bill that uses the money for core functions of law enforcement – like body armor and investigators; then dedicate a part of that money to enforce the employer sanctions law. In a tight budget year, this is efficient, and ensures that the money is used responsibly and effectively.

You must also pass the legislation necessary to authorize a second, optional driver's license. This is the "3-in-1" card that serves three purposes: it is a driver's license; it is a passport for those U.S. citizens crossing from Mexico and Canada; and it is proof of citizenship – for purposes of the employer sanctions law.

Some were quick to criticize, but the facts are these: it is more secure than your current Arizona driver's license; it is voluntary – no one will be required to have it; and it could be available at minimal cost to Arizonans by September of this year. Arizona employers have been asking for an alternative to the federal E-Verify system. This could be it.

We need to keep fierce pressure on the organized street gangs and criminal rackets that smuggle humans, narcotics, stolen vehicles, and weapons into our state. You can do this by continuing your support of DPS officers – especially in the highway patrol division, in the GIITEM gang task force, in crime labs and in forensics.

Next, let's keep working to take away the tools of the smuggling trade. We went after fake ID's, with the Fraudulent ID Task Force, and that's working; we went after wire transfers of illegal profits, and that's working; we went after stolen vehicles used to bring people into the country illegally, and – guess what? – that's working, too.

The next step is to target the drop houses located in family neighborhoods all over Arizona. Right now, law enforcement can go after the property owners. But too often, it's the middleman – the property manager – who rents out a house, knowing full well it will be used as a drop house. Strengthen the law, so we can get to that middleman. No ID-s, no money, no cars, no drop houses - that's how we will ultimately put an end to this savage industry in Arizona.

Violence around the world reminds us all that outside threats to our nation and our communities continue. The Arizona Counter Terrorism Intelligence Center has so far trained and equipped hundreds of Arizona law enforcement officers to be prepared for a crisis. Yet federal funding for this critical center has been slashed. In order to continue the important work we have begun, my budget allocates \$1.4 million to operate this facility.

Finally, I want to bring the subject of security back to the home, and to children. Child Protective Services has come a long way, but we still have work to do.

It has become increasingly clear to me that to do more for our children, we need to do more about the substance abuse that grips their parents. Case managers will tell you that when a child is in danger, substance abuse is nearly always in the picture.

We have many prevention and treatment programs; the problem is, they're spread around various parts of state government. Today, by executive order, I have directed that substance abuse dollars be targeted so that the families of children in the child protective system are first in line for treatment and services. Let's make sure that these parents – who want to get clean for the sake of their children – have access to all the services that can help them do it.

In addition to this, it's obvious that CPS caseloads are still just too high. My budget asks you to fund additional case managers this year, so we continue to bring caseloads down to protect children.

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